Make Impossible Possible: Unlocking Human Potential through the International Finance Facility for Education

A high-level event during the United Nations General Assembly in support of Sustainable Development Goal 4

Monday, 24 September 2018
6:00–7:30 pm
United Nations Headquarters
Conference Room Three

Overview
Is it possible for the international community to achieve universal primary and secondary education by 2030 even when today – only 12 years from the deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals – 263 million children do not go to school, more than 400 million leave school without basic primary-level skills, and more than half of the world’s children and youth are not on track to gain the most basic skills for the modern workforce? How could it be possible to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all – starting in the early years through adulthood – for the 1.6 billion school-age young people on our planet?

Over the past year, there has been unparalleled progress on the pathway to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4). Bilateral aid for education is increasing for the first time in several years. Countries made unprecedented commitments to domestic resource mobilization and aid at the historic Global Partnership for Education pledging conference earlier this year. The Education Cannot Wait fund is delivering more programs to address the needs of education in crises and emergencies, with the overall share of education in humanitarian aid also on the rise. Moreover, the Education Commission’s proposal to mobilize more and better investment through the new International Finance Facility for Education (IFFEd) has been recognized by the G20 and supported by the United Nations Secretary-General, UN agencies, the World Bank, and multilateral development banks.

The Facility offers urgently needed financing to prepare children and youth – especially girls – with the skills needed for the modern workforce and global society of tomorrow. We are at a critical juncture on the pathway to achieving SDG 4. The Facility, in its final stages of development, will make it possible to establish a comprehensive education

Updated 27 August 2018
financing architecture prior to the July 2019 UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2019) which will include an in-depth review of SDG 4.

At this year’s UN General Assembly, this high-level event will serve as an important rallying point to take stock, highlight progress, and generate the political momentum necessary to establish the Facility. The meeting will take place at a crucial moment – prior to the upcoming Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Indonesia and the G20 Leader’s Summit in Argentina – both of which will provide opportunities for the Facility to be formally agreed upon and financed so it can be operational in early 2019.

Participants
Presidents, prime ministers, and ministers from potential beneficiary, G20, and donor countries; presidents of the multilateral development banks; heads of UN agencies; leaders from the business/philanthropic community; civil society leaders and young people. The event will be hosted by UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and UN Special Envoy for Global Education and Education Commission Chair Gordon Brown.

Objectives
- Build political momentum for the International Finance Facility for Education by demonstrating support from potential beneficiary countries, the multilateral development banks, prospective contributing countries, and young people
- Identify next steps for establishing and funding IFFEd

Format
A detailed run of show will be circulated in the coming weeks. The event will take place in a large chamber at the United Nations with capacity for approximately 400. Principals will be seated at the podium and inner circle to enable a dialogue focused on outlining the demand for and support of the new Facility as well as identifying the next steps for collective action.